



## S. 1245 – A BILL TO REFORM MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

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### FLOOR SITUATION

S. 1245 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) on April 26, 2007. The bill passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on December 12, 2007.

S. 1245 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 9, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

S. 1245 amends the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-458) to exempt the volunteers of emergency response organizations from liability for their actions while performing emergency services under a mutual aid agreement between the federal government and a state or local government included in the National Capital Region.

Under current law, emergency services included in mutual aid agreements under the Act include police, fire, and rescue services. S. 1245 includes the maintenance of water and wastewater systems as services that may be maintained in the event of an emergency and covered under mutual aid agreements.

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### BACKGROUND

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 was enacted on December 17, 2004. Under the Act, the federal government may enter into mutual agreements with state and local governments included in the National Capital Region for the emergency management, response, and recovery efforts in the event of a regional or national emergency. The National Capital Region includes the District of Columbia and surrounding local jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office “estimates that implementing S. 1245 would have no significant federal cost over the 2008-2012 period.”

[Full CBO cost estimate for S. 1245](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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